

FORCE; THE DOCTRINE OF LODGE AND LENINE

JOHAN SPARGO, who left the Socialist party because of its pro-German and pacifist characteristics, is one of the ablest Marxian economists, a dialectician of acute mind and shrewd logic.

His description of Bolshevism in Russia given to the Forum, last night, was brief, sharp and easily understandable. The Bolsheviks are socialists who are trying to impose a proletarian dictatorship, the will of a minority, upon the majority of the people of Russia. The Czar exercised one species of tyranny and the Bolsheviks another; but the manifestations of the tyranny are identical. Public opinion is ignored, men are imprisoned, exiled, slaughtered and even tortured, for the exercise of free speech.

There seems to be every reason why Russia should desire a different form of government. Yet, upon scrutiny, there is something strangely familiar about Bolshevik methods.

The essence of the wrong the Bolsheviks do consists in the infliction by force of the will of a minority upon a majority. In this way the Manchus, a mere handful, conquered China, and many centuries rolled away before the Manchus were disestablished, and China became a republic.

Thus Alexander laid his empire upon the face of Asia, and William the Conqueror, with a few Norman knights and men at arms parcelled the land of England among his nobles. By force Napoleon quelled the proletarians of France, and then by force inflicted his will for thirty years upon Europe. By force did the Hapsburgs and the Hohenzollerns endeavor to carve a place in the sunshine.

So deeply are habits graven in the minds of men that now when force has been overthrown with force, and a great man wishes to end the reign of force forever, and establish, through the League of Nations, the era of moral settlements American senators denounce the program.

Primitive man knew no resource but force. Settlements by law, by justice, by moral values is comparatively new.

In the light of these examples the Bolsheviks are seen to be merely old fashioned people, trying to accomplish new fashioned changes in an old fashioned way.

Lenine and Lodge, Trotsky and Borah worship the same principle. Force always has ruled, therefore it always must rule. Minorities always have inflicted their wills by force upon majorities, therefore they always must. This is the philosophy of Lodge and Trotsky.

It follows, quite logically, that if men are not ready for the League of Nations, if Lodge is right and Wilson is wrong, that Bolsheviks hold by the oldest title: "he may take who may and he may keep who can."

In the light of history the Bolsheviks are justified. The past is but a tale of the few compelling the many, with tears and terror.

It is only when Bolshevism is judged in the light of the new order that it is outside the pale. Those who assert the rule of force as necessary and inevitable cannot in reason repudiate Bolshevism while it has the power to prevail. Where the law of force prevails there is no majority, but only the group with force enough to win.

Bolshevism, then, is the natural consequence of the ancient belief that force is the only arbitrator. In every movement nowadays persons separate into two groups. Those who believe in victories won on the moral plane, and those who believe in achievement by violence.

The labor movement divides into these two groups, those who believe in force and those who believe in moral suasion.

So does American socialism, with its Opportunists and its Impossibilists; those who seek change by democratic methods and those who seek change by violence, as the I. W. W. does.

The suffrage movement is similarly divided. Some are Constitutionalists and some are Militants.

There is but one safe road for the world to travel. Install the rule of majorities through law and justice. Put down the rule of force. Establish the League of Nations. In the Court of Nations Bolshevism will have no defense.

In the absence of such a court Bolsheviks have the best defense in the world. They will say "We are a minority ruling by force because we have the force necessary to rule."

It is time to come out of the era of brute strength. It is time to come in to the epoch of moral settlements.

BRIGHT SPOTS

EVEN BOLSHIEVISM has its bright spots. The Bolsheviks permit women to vote if they do useful work; Connecticut permits no woman to vote, even if she pays taxes, and supports an invalid husband and nine children. For the matter of that, votes for women have often been opposed in Connecticut upon the theory that the ladies cannot shoulder arms. Even the war period, when they shouldered so many war duties, did not bring them the ballot in Connecticut.

There is one place in which Connecticut and Bolshevism split fifty-fifty, but on opposite sides of the scale.

Whereas in Russia, according to Mr. Spargo, one city man has five votes and each farmer but one vote; in Connecticut each farmer has more than five votes and each city man but one; that is to say, Bridgeport elects but two representatives, and Union the same number.

A NEW DRIVE

THE WAR introduced two things that seem likely to survive. The drive and the four minute speech as an aid to the drive. The latest application of these aids is by the American Railway Express Co., which on Feb. 10 will open a drive to secure the proper packing, marking and wrapping of express packages. Not all the delays in express service are the fault of the service. Many of them are due to the failure of the shipper. Four minute speakers will carry on the work of instruction among express employees throughout the United States. This work deserves support and co-operation.

POLISH GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZED

THE AMERICAN system began its competition with monarchy less than 150 years ago. The conflict now comes to a close with scarcely a throne left. The kings that remain, like the King of England, are purely ornamental, have less power than an American mayor, and are indeed quite useless, except that their existence proves the conservatism of the human mind.

Among the states which have been withdrawn from the monarchical system is Poland, which, under the government of Paderewski, has been recognized by President Wilson. It is to Wilson, as the representative of America, that Poland owes its new and fortunate condition.

The Poles of the United States, and especially those of Bridgeport, contributed liberally in men and money, for the

freedom of their country. Their latest contribution is \$2,000,000 of food for the relief of Poland. These contributions include more than \$16,000 from Bridgeport. They are made equally by the Polish organizations and the Jewish organizations.

Dr. Smykowski, who has been selected by Premier Paderewski to head the relief commission, speaks of the era of religious freedom which the republic ushers in.

Pole and Jew will live in amity under a government in which there is freedom for all, as they live in the United States, without friction or unhappiness. The Poles are a gifted people. They have ancient traditions of liberty and democracy. Now they must build up a new tradition of Polish unity, and a government in which rights and privileges are equal.

In the new Republic will be reared more than one monument to Woodrow Wilson. In the history which will be taught to the children of Poland, for generations to come, the name of Woodrow Wilson will be written, in gratitude and reverential joy.

WELCOMING THE HEROIC 56TH

BRIDGEPORT gave an enthusiastic welcome to the boys of the 56th Artillery, who come home with the laurels that good soldiers wear, but not in the least converted to militarism. The boys did their part in many a hard fought battle. They were constantly in the midst of danger and endured discomforts, the gravest and most difficult. They return to civil life and the comforts of home, glad because they were able to help their country and the world, but glad, also, because their task is ended and its dangers need be confronted no more.

The grand army of the world, of which the boys of the 56th will be a part, will be a force making for peace, precisely as the Grand Army of the Republic was after the Civil War.

Receptions are excellent things. The boys like to be welcomed back with a royal welcome. But other things must be done for them. They are entitled to the job, and to a country in which those who work may live in comfort.

The soldiers will not depend entirely upon the generosity and gratitude of their fellow citizens, though that might be enough. They will organize their several units, as the Grand Army of the Republic did, and they will have one great organization, and through these organizations the veterans of the world war will realize their just desires for their own advancement and the improvement of their country.

STATE AID FOR TROLLEYS

IN ITS earlier history Connecticut extended its financial support to railroad corporations and permitted its towns and cities to do so. The experience was unfortunate. Bridgeport had an especially unhappy relationship with the Housatonic Railroad. The city attempting to repudiate its bonds, given to aid the railroad, found that it was easier to go into debt than to repudiate it.

The state is asked to loan \$2,000,000 to the Connecticut Co. Leaving out of question the impudence of the request, it raises a constitutional question.

The fingers of the state and its municipalities having been severely burned with railroad aid projects, the people in Oct. 1877, adopted an amendment to the constitution, providing that "no city, town or borough shall subscribe to the capital stock of any railroad corporation or become a purchaser of its bonds, or make a donation to, or loan its credit, directly or indirectly, in aid of any such corporation."

Is this injunction broad enough to include street railways? At the time it was made trolley lines were years in the future. Trolleys run on rails, and hence are railroads. The old horse cars ran on rails and hence were railroads, in the popular use of the term.

In Connecticut statutes the steam roads have usually been designated as railroads and the street lines as railways.

Is a street railway company a "railroad corporation" within the meaning of the constitution?

The Connecticut Company is a subsidiary of the New Haven Railroad Company, which owns all of its stock, and is to all intents and purposes an arm of the New Haven Railroad Company.

Can a railroad corporation, by the mere expedient of organizing a parasite corporation with a different name, obtain directly or indirectly, the aid it could not itself obtain? If it can, the constitutional prohibition is wasted language.

The historic policy of Connecticut is clearly indicated by the amendment, regardless of its legal effect. It was intended that the taxpayers should no more suffer by the failures and mismanagement of railroad corporations.

There are additional reasons why the state should not aid the Connecticut Company. The company is owned by a railroad corporation and the railroad corporation may be owned by the United States. If there is a duty to give aid, the national government has the duty.

The New Haven Railroad corporation owns the corporation called the Connecticut Company, but it does not own the physical property which the company operates. This is owned by another corporation, which in turn is controlled by a fourth corporation, with its headquarters in Philadelphia.

State aid to the Connecticut Company will be against public policy and business prudence.

PROBATION SYSTEM

THE PROBATION system, that plan by which criminals are confined to the care of officers of the court, is good. The system of probation has saved many a man, and protected many an unfortunate family. But no probation system is stronger than the persons who operate it. The efficiency of the system, its power to benefit individuals and the community, depends upon the most conscientious and industrious effort upon the part of probation officers. Unless the delinquent is visited, watched, counselled with and held strictly to the terms of his probation, the system will be a failure. Of all tasks, required of justice, that of a probation officer is the most difficult and requires the most patience, skill and industry. There is too much reason for supposing that the probation system in Bridgeport has become a political sinecure. The police department recognizes the failure, without perhaps perceiving the cause of it.

AMENDING THE CHARTER

SENATOR CLARK, at the request of men interested in commission government, has introduced a copy of the commission government plan for which the people of Bridgeport voted by a majority of two to one. The charter is accompanied by a bill for its validation, and to make it the charter of the city, provided it receives a majority of the votes cast, upon re-submission.

This charter was originally offered under the Home Rule statute, which makes the impossible requirement that no such act shall be valid unless those voting to the question are 60 per cent. of the registered voters.

The bill perhaps will not go through, but it will serve to recall to the minds of the voters the circumstances of treachery by which commission government was finally laid in its grave.

Venezelos Claim Will Be Handled By A Commission

Two Men Each From United States, England, Italy and France.

WILL RECOMMEND JUST SETTLEMENT

Wilson Working Hard Upon Plan For Morning League of Nations.

Paris, Feb. 4.—The Supreme Council at its meeting today agreed that questions in the statement of Premier Venezelos concerning Greek territorial interests in the Peace settlement should be referred to a commission of experts whose duty it would be to make recommendations for a just settlement.

The commission will be composed of two representatives each from the United States, the British empire, France and Italy.

President Wilson has several appointments for today, including a call from representatives of the Bible society and visits from some Republican congressmen who have arrived in Paris. He is determined, however, that nothing shall be permitted to obstruct his progress of the commission of which he is chairman and which is now engaged in perfecting the scheme for the creation of a Society of Nations.

He is, therefore, concentrating his attention upon that work. While less than two weeks remain before the date set for his return to Washington, it is still regarded as possible for the peace conference in plenary session to ratify the plan and thus put it fully in the way to be registered in treaty form within the time limit. This would make a record for international conferences, but the Paris gathering has already done that in several instances.

There is a growing feeling here that the treaty of peace should be speedily perfected, now that the principle of the Society of Nations and many of the details of its construction have been agreed upon. Arthur J. Balfour, the British foreign secretary, is engaged upon a proposition to fix the territorial boundaries of the defeated nations at once and promptly conclude peace with the enemy as so constituted. The program would then be to go on with the settlement of the other questions remaining to be solved under the rules of the society of nations.

With such an agreement on general principles as has been reached, it is held in some quarters that there may be no need to treat specifically such subjects as the freedom of the seas, the use of submarines in warfare, the creation of buffer states, or even the delimitation of national boundaries with reference to their defensive possibilities. The idea is that there would be no necessity to consider the question of defense against a neighbor whose good behavior was assured.

Some subjects, however, do require immediate consideration, it seems generally agreed. These include assessment of the damages caused by the war, responsibility for the war, regulation of the use of international waterways and railways, difficulties presented by the present state of chaos in the treaty relations between the nations as one result of the war, and treatment of the labor question by international accord.

Some of these problems would require a long time to settle, notably the determining of the actual damage inflicted by the enemy, although it has been suggested that adjustment of this question might be facilitated by the adoption of an estimate of the gross sum, based on the preliminary examinations which already have been made by army officers.

One way of solving these problems, which may be adopted, would be through the creation of various commissions to work after the final adjournment of the Peace Conference, with full powers to enforce the execution of their decrees.

Two Officers and 19 Enlisted Men Get Highest Form of Decoration.

ON PERSHING'S RECOMMENDATION

Wearers of This Medal Constitute Special Roll of Honor.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Award of congressional medals of honor, the highest American military decoration, to two officers and nineteen enlisted men of the army in France, was announced today by the War Department. Only three of the medals had been awarded previously for service in the great war.

All the awards were upon recommendation by General Pershing. By act of congress the medals can be given only for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action."

Many distinguished service crosses for gallantry in action, and distinguished service medals, given for conspicuous service of any character in connection with the army, having been awarded heretofore, but the wearers of the medal of honor constitute a special roll of honor. It carries with it gratuities and certain privileges. Some of the decorations were awarded posthumously to men who lost their lives in heroic acts. The list includes:

Captain Marcelinus H. Chilles (deceased), Denver, Colo., 356th Infantry, who led the battalion he commanded forward against a machine gun cross-fire, wading waist deep across a stream to reach the enemy and crawling on his hands to follow. He died of wounds.

Sergeant Reldar Walker, no address, Company A, 195 Machine Gun Battalion, for rescuing two wounded men from burning British tank under artillery and machine gun fire.

Sergeants Alan Louis Eggers, Summit, N. J., 107th Infantry, and John Cridland Latham, nearest of kin residing at Westmoreland, England, Machine Gun company, 107th Infantry, and Corporal Thomas E. O'Shea, Summit, N. J., for rescuing an officer and two men from a damaged American tank and by means of the machine from the tank standing off the enemy all day from a shell hole within the enemy lines. Corporal O'Shea died of wounds.

Private Frank Gaffney, Lockport, N. Y., Company C, 108th Infantry, for going forward alone with an automatic rifle when all other members of his squad had been killed, attacking and capturing an enemy machine gun, killing the crew, bombing several dugouts and killing four of the enemy with pistol fire. When reinforcements came up, eighty prisoners were captured.

PLANTS CRIPPLED IN LAWRENCE

Lawrence, Mass., Feb. 4.—The second day of the strike of textile operatives in the 12 mills of this city found virtually all plants crippled.

The Everett Mills were idle and the four American Woolen Co. mills were operating only a few departments, and those with greatly depleted forces.

More strike pickets were in evidence than on the opening day, but that there were no disturbances that called for police action.

WOMAN FOR MAYOR.

Chicago, Feb. 4.—Mrs. Leonora Z. Meder, lawyer, club woman and former city commissioner of public welfare, today announced her candidacy for mayor. She said she would run as a non-partisan.

SAY DEVALERA HAS ESCAPED

London, Feb. 4.—A report was current this morning that Prof. Edward de Valera, the Sinn Fein leader, had escaped from his place of internment in England. No confirmation of the report was obtainable up to noon.

INVESTIGATE HUN PROPAGANDA

Washington, Feb. 4.—After extended and vigorous criticism by several senators of alleged lawless propaganda, the Senate today adopted a resolution extending the powers of the Senate committee investigating German propaganda to inquire into other activities which it was charged sought the overthrow of the government.

BERNE MEETING MAY PROVE TO BE HUN TRAP

Scheme Planned to Help Germany to Retrieve Her Military Defeat.

SOME SOCIALISTS REFUSED TO GO

Prominent Socialists See Plan to Escape Paying Indemnities.

Paris, Monday, Feb. 3.—The Berne Socialist conference, to which many Socialist bodies in Europe have failed to send representatives, is the outcome of a German plan to help Germany retrieve her military defeat and escape the payment of just indemnities, in the belief of Charles Edward Russell and William English Walling, speaking in behalf of the Social Democratic League of the United States. Messrs. Russell and Walling tonight gave out the following statement on the subject in the name of the League:

"As delegates of our organization we decline to go to Berne because despite the pretention of the world's laboring classes are representing there, its principal movers are those in all countries who tried to cause peace when it would have meant the triumph of imperialism and the ruin of the working class democracy."

"We note that the general federation of trades unions, the Great Britain has no representation there, nor the Italian Socialist party, representing the majority of Italian Socialists; nor the Belgian Socialist party, nor the American Federation of Labor; and that 40 Socialists in the French chamber of deputies allowed their delegates to go only under protest and under the threat that their action would be repudiated unless the Scheidemann group was excluded."

"We also note that one-third of the Berne delegates are recognized by the Bolsheviks as sympathetic with their doctrines."

"We believe that the Berne conference is designed by Germany to re-claim her from military defeat and avoid the payment of a just indemnity by intrigue and secret diplomacy."

REFUSE TO RATIFY

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 4.—By a vote of 20 to 14, the Connecticut Senate this afternoon refused to ratify the Federal prohibition amendment.

PROTEST AGAINST COLONY ACTION

Erzberger Says Germany Must Not Be Shorn of Possessions.

Berlin, Monday, Feb. 3.—Speaking before the colonial society at Berlin today, Matthias Erzberger, one of the German armistice commissioners, protested against Germany being deprived of her colonies, according to a dispatch received here from the German capital. He is reported to have said:

"If we no longer have troops or arms we have our rights. The Allies have accepted Mr. Wilson's fourteen points as Germany has. Mr. Wilson demands broad and impartial regulation of all colonial questions, but the Allies are seeking to impose the will of stronger nations, without taking into account the rights of Germany. "Despite Germany of all her colonies would contain a deadly germ for the League of Nations even before that League is born. We understand it has been proposed to internationalize German colonies under the administration of the League of Nations. We ought to categorically repel such a proposition, or claim the same treatment for the colonies of all other Powers. President Wilson's program gives Germany an inviolable right to her colonial territories."

SOCIALISTS GIVE WILSON GREETING

Paris, Monday, Feb. 3.—President Wilson was given an unusual reception by Socialist members at the chamber of deputies this afternoon. They tried to drown the applause from the centre and the right in an apparent attempt to show Mr. Wilson that his ideas were their own. When Captain Mantoux, the official interpreter, who translated President Wilson's address, reached that part of the speech in which Mr. Wilson spoke of the society of nations, the Socialists rose, shouting "long live the Society of Nations," some of them and "down with war."

Paul Deschanel, who opened the sitting, said of the plan for the Society of Nations:

"Across the chasm of blood and darkness we see the light of the future. We believe that if the nations, instead of being formed slowly and the pressure of peril and under the necessities of the moment in the shock of battles, could have been instituted long before at The Hague, Germany would never have dared to declare war upon us. We believe that the 20 states which broke relations with Germany must be the nucleus of a Society of Nations. We shall continue with all our strength and all our heart to prevent a return to barbarism and to maintain our dear and illustrious friendship which shall be no less fruitful in peace than it has been in war."